

# Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

## Addendum

MIHP Number: M:29-8-4

Property Name: Dr. William T. Pratt House  
Property Address: 10266 River Road, Potomac, MD

According to a letter dated February 13, 2003 from the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), this property has been demolished.

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Dr. William Pratt House
2. Planning Area/Site Number 29/8
3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 19; K-5
4. Address 10266 River Road, Potomac
5. Classification Summary
- Category building
- Ownership private
- Public Acquisition N.A.
- Status unoccupied
- Accessible no
- Present use vacant
- Previous Survey Recording M-MCPC Federal State County X Local Historical Sites Inventory 1976
6. Date 1894
7. Original Owner William T. Pratt
8. Apparent Condition
- a. detrriorated
- b. altered
- c. Original Site
9. Description: This three bay by two bay, two & a half story, L-shape house suffered severe fire damage and is in poor condition. Built on fieldstone foundations, facing southwest, it has white asbestos siding. There is a two story enclosed porch on the southeast elevation. The house has a cross gable roof and an interior stone chimney. The lot has become overgrown with vegetation. One grand Norway pine remains.
10. Significance: The significance of this house is that it is one of the few remaining structures of 19th century Potomac, and the home of a prominent doctor.
- This house was built by Dr. Wm. T. Pratt and his wife Mary E. Clagett in 1894. The land on which the house sits was Mary's dowry, being part of the holdings of the Clagett family, an old and influential family in the area.
- Dr. Pratt became an important doctor in the County. The family doctor for generations of Potomac residents, he became Medical Examiner for the County Draft Board during World War I. After the establishment of the County Health Department in 1923 he became a County health officer, a position that included being deputy of the State Department of Health.
- The Pratts sold their house to Carl H. and Julia M. Stearn in 1919 who owned it until 1965 when it was sold to the present owner, Thomas N. Dowd.
- Date researched and researcher 7/78 Mark Walston
12. Compiler Gail Rothrock
13. Date Compiled 12/78
14. Designation Approval Candy Reed - Architectural Description
15. Acreage 41,853 sq. ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 29/8/4  
MAGI #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Dr. William T. Pratt House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 10266 River Road

CITY, TOWN

Potomac

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

—OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Thomas N. Dowd

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

13500 Travilah Road

CITY, TOWN

Gaithersburg

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4237

Folio #: 36

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:29-8-4

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

---

This three bay by two bay, two and a half story L-shape house is in poor condition and faces southwest on River Road.

Built on fieldstone foundations, it has white asbestos siding. The southwest (front) porch has three poured concrete steps, and a wrought iron hand railing. The pedimented door frame is supported by fluted pilasters. The door itself is missing. The northeast porch has a shed roof supported by four square wooden posts. There is a two story porch on the southeast elevation. Enclosed at the first level, it is semi-enclosed at the second level and presumably was used as a sleeping porch. It has a shed roof.

The windows in this house have all been knocked out of their frames. The house has a cross gable roof and is covered by green asbestos shingles. There is one interior stone chimney. The lot is entirely overgrown and there is a great deal of poison ivy. There is a magnificent Norway pine on the lot.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
REHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land upon which this house now sits, being portions of "Williamsborough" or "Resurvey on Clewerwall", was originally part of the land holdings of the Clagetts, an old and influential family in the Potomac area. On September 7, 1893, Darius Clagett and his wife Henrietta conveyed to their daughter Mary E. Clagett, "...in consideration of the natural love and affection we bear our daughter", a 2.74 acre parcel of part of "Williamsborough" or Resurvey on Clewerwall".<sup>1</sup> This lot fronted on River Road, northwest of its intersection with Falls Road. The land appears to have been intended as part of the dowry of Miss Clagett, for shortly thereafter, she married Dr. William T. Pratt. The house now situated upon this parcel was completed and occupied by the young couple by the next year (1894), and is portrayed as such on the Hopkins Map of 1894, entitled "The Vicinity of Washington, D.C." On this map, the house is listed under the name of Dr. W. T. Pratt.

On June 30, 1894, Dr. Pratt applied for a certificate to practice medicine in Montgomery County, giving the town of Potomac as his post office address. The certificate was granted the same day his application was made.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Pratt soon became the "family doctor" for many of the residents in and around the still rural community of Potomac. Beginning with the horse and buggy, and later employing a Model T Ford, Dr. Pratt plied his trade about the countryside by means of the now obsolete method fondly remembered as "the house-call".

As Dr. Pratt's practice and popularity grew, he began to assume, on a greater level, a responsibility for the medical health of Montgomery Countians as a whole. He was an examiner for the County draft board during World War I. And, after the establishment in 1923 of the Montgomery County Health Department, Dr. Pratt became a County health officer, which position also carried with it the responsibility of deputy of the State Department of Health.

In 1919, Dr. Pratt and his wife Mary moved from their house in Potomac, selling it on December 19 of that year to Earl H. Stearn and his wife Julia M. Stearn.<sup>3</sup> The building remained in the Stearn family until 1965. However, through recent years of vacancy and neglect on the part of the present owner, the house has fallen into an abject decrepitude, fast reaching a state of irreparability.

NOTES

1. Deed JA 40/84, Montgomery County Land Records
2. Registry of Physicians and Surgeons, JA 1/31
3. Deed 288/492, Montgomery County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Montgomery County Land Records  
 Hopkins, "Map of Vicinity of Washington, D.C.", (Phila., G.M.Hopkins,  
 Mont. Co. Registry of Physicians and Surgeons, JA 1  
 Harris, Ann, The Potomac Adventure (Potomac, MD., BAIPP, 1976), pp 68-69

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 41,853 sq. ft.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY Candy Reed - Architectural Description

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mark WalstonCandy Reed - Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

7/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87, Stronghold

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

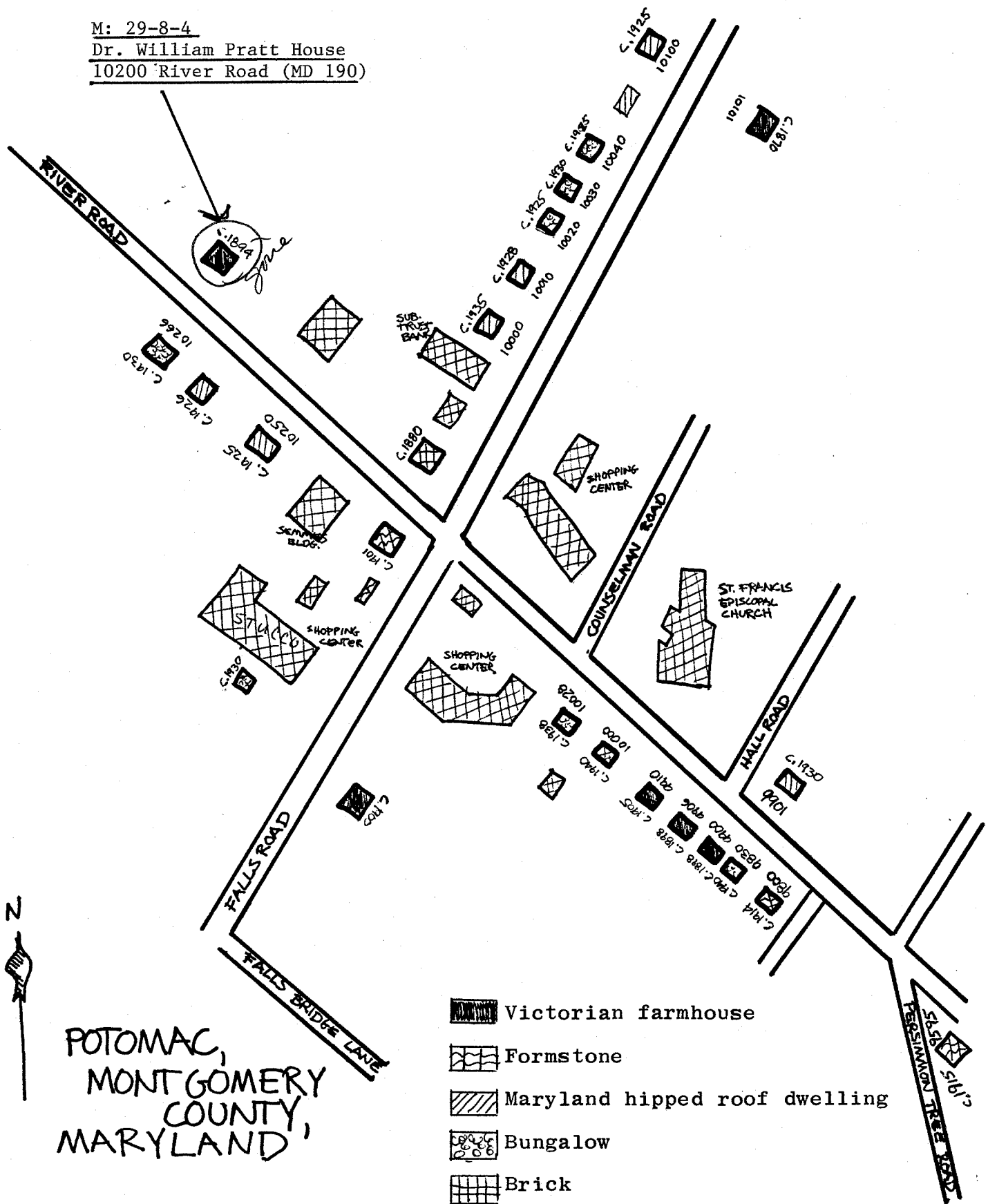
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

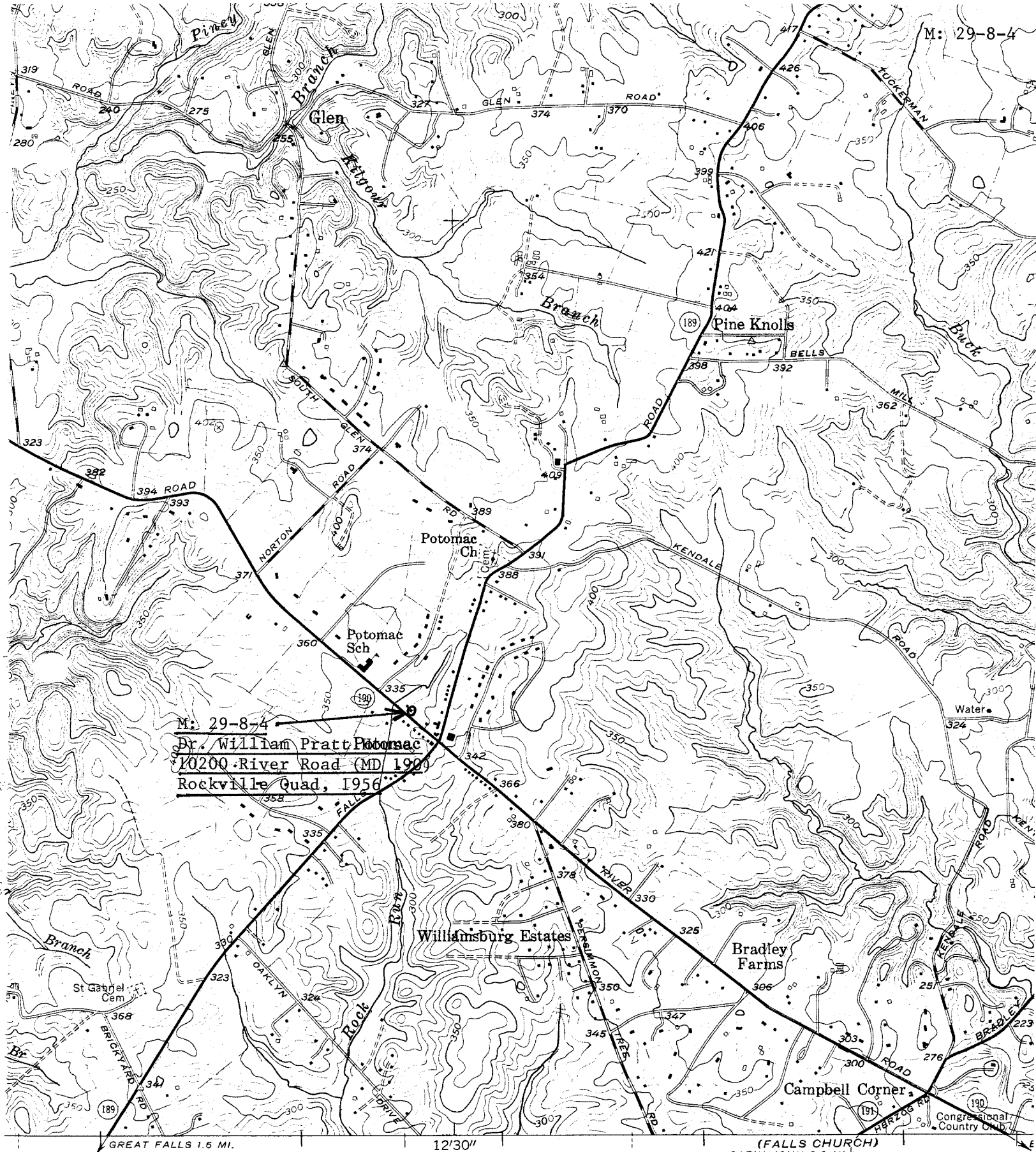
SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
 Box 87, Stronghold  
 Dickerson, Md. 20753  
 (301) 926-4510

M: 29-8-4

Dr. William Pratt House  
10200 River Road (MD 190)



M: 29-8-4



M: 29-8-4  
Dr. William Pratt Potomac  
10200 River Road (MD) 1900  
Rockville Quad, 1956

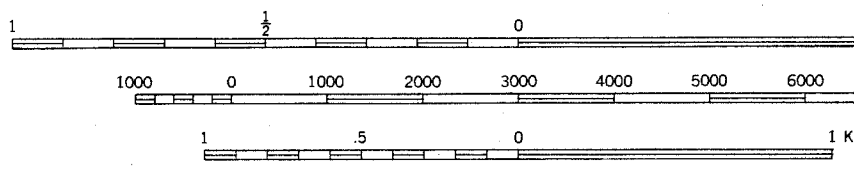
e Geological Survey

grammetric methods  
1956

datum  
ate system,

grid ticks,

7°  
TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NO



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL